

# NASSG TIMES

# NASSAU STRIKE GROUP NEWSLETTER

# Nassau Strike Group Deploys

# Nassau Strike Group Deploys

*From Nassau Strike Group Public Affairs Office*

A large amphibious transport dock ship (LSD) is the central focus, moving from the foreground towards the horizon. It is followed by a line of smaller ships, including what appear to be destroyers and frigates, all moving in the same direction. The ships are leaving white wakes in the dark blue water. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The overall scene conveys a sense of a major naval deployment.

ATLANTIC OCEAN(Feb. 20, 2008) -- A Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey takes off the flight deck of amphibious assault ship USS Nassau after refueling. The Nassau Strike Group deployed in support of Maritime Security Operations and Theater Security Cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th and 6th Fleet areas of responsibility. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class(SW/AW) Rustum Rivera. (RELEASED)

*What are you planning to accomplish during this deployment?* >>>see inside

## In This Issue

<b>Nassau Strike Group Deploys</b>	page 1
<b>Commodore's Corner</b>	page 2
<b>NASSG Trains While Heading Across the Ocean</b>	page 3
<b>Burial at Sea Onboard the Ashland</b>	page 4
<b>Navy League, VAW Partner in Donation to USS Bulkeley</b>	page 5
<b>USS Ashland Welcomes Two of its Own as New U.S. Citizens</b>	page 6
<b>NASSG Enters the Navy's Sixth Fleet Area of Operations</b>	page 7
<b>Bulkeley Sailors Cope with Deployment Separation</b>	page 8
<b>What do you want to accomplish during this deployment?</b>	pages 2, 10 & 12
<b>Nassau Strike Group Transits the Atlantic</b>	page 9
<b>Nassau Meritoriously Advances Four Sailors</b>	page 10
<b>Any Day in NASSG</b>	page 11
<b>Bulkeley Conducts Anti-Terrorism Force Protection Training</b>	page 12



## Commodore's Corner

*Dear Families,*

*Great start for the NASSAU Strike Group, our Sailors and Marines are focused on being ready to support operations in the Mediterranean Sea. We are preparing for our first port call in Rota, Spain. We plan to play soccer and softball with some tours to the local monasteries and Gibraltar thrown in for some more fun.*

*We have a NASSAU Strike Group website, [www.cpr6.surfor.navy.mil](http://www.cpr6.surfor.navy.mil), where we will place pictures of our Sailors and Marines in action. We will also use this website to post important information to keep families aware of what we are doing.*

*Thanks for your continued great support; we could not do what we do without you!*

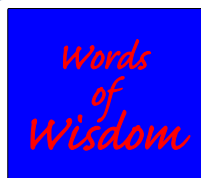
*Capt. Bob Lineberry*



## What are you planning to accomplish during this deployment?

"My main goal is to reinvent myself personally. I plan to enhance my physical fitness and increase my spirituality. Most importantly, I plan to assist those junior sailors under my charge, those I mentor, as well as, those I interact with daily to develop personally and maximize their professional potential."

- Senior Chief  
Information Systems Technician  
(SW/AW) Renee Brown,  
COMPHIBRON 6



*"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure."*

*- Colin Powell*



### Nassau Strike Group(NASSG) Times

*This is an unofficial US Navy newsletter approved for release by the Commander, Nassau Strike Group. News and information within are intended solely for its crew and family members. Any questions regarding its content may be directed to NASSG Public Affairs Office at [nassgpao@lha4.navy.mil](mailto:nassgpao@lha4.navy.mil).*

Capt. Robert Lineberry  
Commander, Nassau Strike Group

Cmdr. Bradley Borden  
NASSG Chief Staff Officer

Lt.j.g. Anthony Falvo  
NASSG Public Affairs Officer

MMCM(SW) Herbert Broughton  
NASSG Senior Enlisted Adviser

#### NASSG Public Affairs Office Staff

MC1(SW/AW) Rustum Rivera    MCSN Cory Rose  
MC3 David Wycaver    MCSN Ryan Steinhour  
MC3 Coleman Thompson    MCSN Mandy Hunsucker

## NASSG Trains While Heading Across the Ocean

### RSEP Program Helping to Enhance Strike Group's Cultural, Security Awareness

*From the Nassau Strike Group Public Affairs Office*

USS NASSAU, At Sea – As the Nassau Strike Group (NASSG) transits the Atlantic Ocean destined for the Navy's 5th and 6th Fleet areas of operation, professors from the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) are educating Sailors on the various cultures and peoples they will encounter in their mission.

Through the NPS Regional Security Enhancement Program (RSEP), Sailors are receiving a graduate-level education from regional and subject-matter experts on the regional threats they are likely to encounter while in theater. The discussions are open, face-to-face lectures that include cultural and diplomatic education designed to enhance strike group mission accomplishment and regional situational awareness.

"RSEP is simply designed to educate the crew on the regional security issues, cultural awareness and language issues that may in the areas that they are going to face so that they can operate more efficiently and safely," said Cmdr. Troy A. Johnson, NPS National Security Affairs department head and RSEP program officer.

The RSEP program was first born from the investigation on the USS Cole bombing on Oct. 12, 2000. In their findings, investigators felt that while the ship's Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Kirk Lippold, acted properly, he did not have the specific intelligence, focused training, appropriate equipment or on-scene security support to effectively prevent or deter such a determined, preplanned assault on his ship. The direct response was a CNO request for new initiatives that would prepare operating forces for future regional security missions and threats.

In order to best reach the naval masses of the front lines, RSEP teams, comprised of a program officer and a select number of professors from NPS and participating colleges and universities, focus on expeditionary strike groups (ESG), carrier strike

groups (CSG) and Marines. The team will average eight to nine trips per year to the East Coast, West Coast and to ESG's and CSG's already deployed. But, for all of the travel and training involved, Johnson says that the program's success should be attributed directly to the Professors that are leading the lectures.

**"RSEP is simply designed to educate the crew on the regional security issues, cultural awareness and language issues."**

"I think they're our greatest asset," explained Johnson. "The Naval Postgraduate School is considered the center of excellence for regional security issues. The professors we have are from a wide range of respected universities and all are on a tenured track at the Naval Postgraduate School and are considered the regional experts for their assigned areas. We only bring the best, brightest and most eager to come out."

Johnson further explained that the program is one that's reciprocal. In exchange for providing Sailors and Marines with a quality education, the professors get up close and personal with the Sailors and Marines and get to experience life at sea. The lessons learned "out here," Johnson explained, help to enhance the lessons they teach in the classroom.

"Our professors teach officers from all branches of the Armed Services," said Johnson, "so it really helps for them to come out here and see it all first hand. It really goes towards helping their comprehension when teaching inside of the classroom."

With the NASSG are three professors that bring nearly 30 years of experience at NPS with them – Dr. Ahmad Ghoreishi, senior lecturer with NPS; Dr.

Scott Field, visiting lecturer with NPS; and Dr. Shaeen Mozaffar, professor of political science with Bridgewater State College. These professors are considered experts in their areas of concentration and will be traveling across the strike group during its Atlantic transit to educate the strike group on the various areas of the globe they will be visiting.

"The most important thing I can take away from here is the importance of linking and relating what I do in my academic life and in my policy analysis work with what is happening on the ground operationally," said Dr. Mozaffar, who has also done work for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Nations, and with agencies that analyzed the most recent elections in Iraq. "When a strike group makes a visit to a certain area of the world, I can relate what the strategic implications of that visit may be. Just being here for the last 10 days has allowed me to see what the work I am doing related to the planning processes in the field."

The Sailors receiving the lectures have been receptive and according to the NASSG Intelligence Officer and RSEP Coordinator, Lt. Cmdr. Tim Sullivan, the professors bring a "depth of expertise" that is crucial to the safety and security of the strike group.

"RSEP is a tremendously valuable program," said Sullivan. "The lessons we are learning now are definitely helping the strike group planners and decision-makers to plan for naval operations and contingencies going forward. They are providing the overarching strategic foundation – politically, economically, and socially – that will help us couch our planning and decision-making."

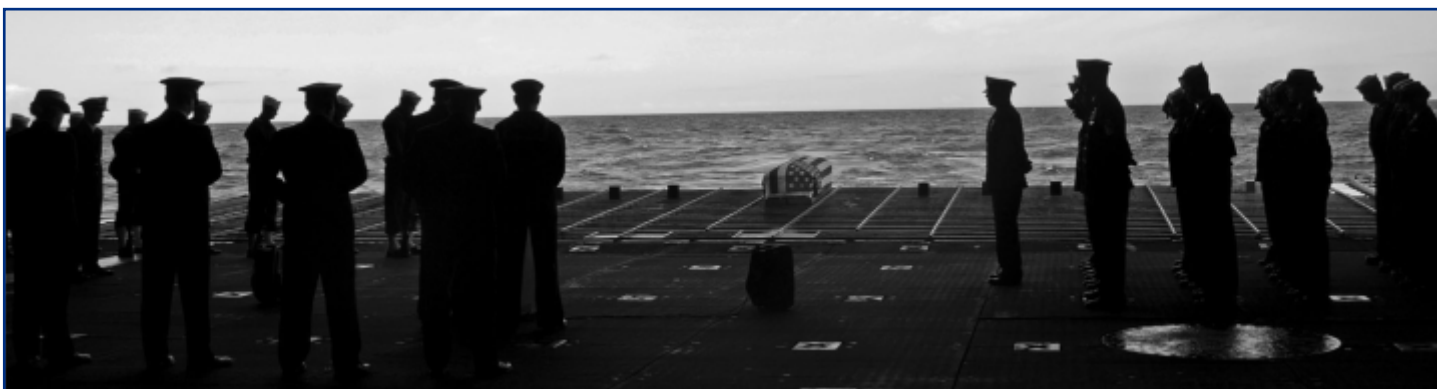
As to the program's importance, Johnson explains "...RSEP is important because it's been proved that an educated crew operates more effectively, efficiently and they're better prepared to execute a safer mission."





## Burial at Sea Onboard the Ashland

*Photos by MCSN Mandy Hunsucker*



*ATLANTIC OCEAN -- The remains of 13 honorably discharged Sailors and Marines sit on the tail gate of amphibious dock landing ship, USS Ashland (LSD 48) during a burial at sea ceremony held onboard, February 23, 2008.*



## USS Bulkeley offers education to Sailors while deployed

*By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class David Wyscaver*

USS BULKELEY, at Sea – USS Bulkeley (DDG 84) is offering its Sailors a chance to receive college credits, free of charge while out to sea through its College-at-Sea program sponsored by Navy College Program Afloat College Education (NCPACE).

The NCPACE program is designed to offer educational opportunities to Sailors stationed aboard ships around the fleet and puts professors of many different backgrounds in classrooms for instruction whether in port or deployed.

"This program is definitely beneficial especially for those pursuing a degree because it allows you to become one step close to your goal while breaking away from work for a few hours," Sonar Technician 3rd Class Sandra Flowers, USS Bulkeley PACE student.

Before vessels are scheduled to deploy, Navy College and the ship's Education Support Officer (ESO) team-up to determine what classes will be offered during the time out to sea.

"Navy College comes aboard and survey's the crew to find out what classes they want to take. In the instance of Bulkeley, History was highly requested by Sailors onboard. It was then up to the Navy to find an instructor qualified to teach the courses outlined through the survey which is how I was contacted to come aboard and teach for this current deployment," said Michael Plemmons, PACE instructor, Central Texas College.

Many benefits exist to why Sailors should receive a college education and Bulkeley is going the extra mile by doing its part to ensure its sailors are able to pursue their academic goals.

Plemmons explained, "I'm very impressed with Bulkeley's chain of command. They've really put an emphasis on education and have given their sailors an opportunity to learn by working my class into their daily schedule."

Navy Counselor 1st Class Katrina Goodman, command career counselor onboard Bulkeley added, "We started

looking into this program early before deployment and the entire chain of command has embraced it from the CO down. With their support it's been easy to get the crew involved in classes, get a great instructor onboard and help prepare our sailors for future success."

Receiving an education while on active duty can benefit Sailors in a variety of ways and give them the tools needed to ensure success, both professionally and personally.

"Education, especially in the Navy is very important because it affects advancement exams, goals to become an officer, and makes them more competitive in the civilian world by

having more to offer if they decide to separate from the Navy," said Goodman.

Plemmons took the opportunity to express what being apart of the PACE program onboard Bulkeley means to him saying, "This is my chance to give back to the military. I was fortunate enough to be successful in my 24-year Army career and I know how hard it can be to pursue a degree while on active duty."

"I love being apart of something that's going to help a Sailor pursue their dreams and goals. That's one reason I enjoy my job so much," said Goodman.



## Navy League, VAW Partner in Donation to USS Bulkeley

*By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class David Wyscaver*

NORFOLK – The Navy League and VAW of Richmond Post 9808 visited USS Bulkeley (DDG 84) on Feb. 15 to present the ship with a check in the amount of \$1,000 to be used during their upcoming deployment as part of the "Deployment Dollars" program.

"Over the past few years we have established a program known as 'Deployment Dollars' in which we give ships who are going on deployment five dollars a day ultimately totaling a thousand dollar donation," said Roy Martin, Richmond Counsel Navy League past president. "The money is distributed through the vessel's Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) department to Sailors in a variety of ways to build morale such as chits and rewards for outstanding performance."

"I think the money that was donated by the Navy League was an incredibly generous act," said Ensign Megan Boyd, USS Bulkeley's MWR coordinator. "The crew of Bulkeley has put forth a tremendous effort getting the ship ready for deployment and I think it was so nice to have that hard work recognized and appreciated."

The idea of the program stems from the initiative of veterans and civilians who want to show their appreciation for the hard work servicemembers put in on a

daily basis. The donations signify the gratitude shown by those who understand the importance of military efforts during deployment.

"This program gives our members a realization of where their money is being spent and more importantly gives us veterans a real appreciation of the modern day Navy and its service-members who man the ships," said Dave Jounker, commander VAW 9808.

Fifteen ships have received the "Deployment Dollars" donation since the program began in 1996. The money for these donations is raised through a variety of fundraisers and individual offerings to the Navy League and VAW posts.

According to Martin, one of the program's benefits is that the money is given to those crewmembers that can really put the funds to good use, "One thing I like so much about the program is the fact all the money is distributed to Sailors E6 and below."

USS Bulkeley is part of the Nassau Strike Group, currently en route to the Navy's 5th and 6th Fleet areas of operation to support Maritime Security Operations (MSO) and Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) efforts.





## USS Ashland Welcomes Two of its Own as New U.S. Citizens

*By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Mandy Hunsucker*

USS ASHLAND, At Sea – Two Sailors onboard amphibious dock landing ship, USS Ashland (LSD 48) received their U.S. citizenship in this month while preparing for their regularly-scheduled deployment.

Storekeeper Seaman Bryan Barnaby came to the U.S. in 2002 at the age of 19 after graduating high school in St. Elizabeth parish, Jamaica. He joined the Navy in 2006.

"I joined the Navy because I wanted to travel," said Barnaby. "So far I've been to Spain, Crete and Seychelles, which is a lot like Jamaica. It has the same climate and similar food. I look forward to going back."

Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Jose Gutierrez, a native of Somoto, Nicaragua, joined the Navy approximately four years ago after returning to the U.S. for the second time.

"My parents left Nicaragua, I believe in 1982, because of war. After the war, my family went back in 1989," said Gutierrez. "After graduating high school, I wanted to do something new and interesting, so I came back to the U.S. to join the Navy."

After joining the Navy both Sailors set out to get their U.S. citizenships.

"Being in the Navy made getting my citizenship easier. I filled out the forms when I came to the Ashland and turned them in to one of my First Class Petty Officers, who looked them over. Then they sent in my package to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service," said Barnaby.

"When I sent in my citizenship package the first and second time at other commands, nothing happened," said Gutierrez. "When I went on deployment on the Ashland last year, I sent it again and it finally made it through."

"Everybody onboard Ashland is very proud of these two Sailors. They are great shipmates and have been serving the Navy and our country honorably for a few years now," said Cmdr. Jeffrey A. Ward, commanding



*Storekeeper Seaman Bryan Barnaby and Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Jose Gutierrez pose for the camera, Feb. 22, after receiving their U.S. citizenship onboard amphibious dock landing ship, USS Ashland (LSD 48). U.S. Navy photo by Chief Hospital Corpsman (SW/FMF) Ashley Kelly. (RELEASED)*

officer, USS Ashland. "It's great to see them complete the process of becoming citizens of our great nation."

When asked what their new U.S. citizenship means to them, both Sailors were extremely grateful for the opportunity not only to become citizens, but also to have the ability to affect change, both personally and professionally.

"I have the opportunity to vote and I'll be able to cross-rate if I choose. I can also petition for my family to come to the

U.S.," said Barnaby.

"It feels good to have it. I don't know how to describe it," said Gutierrez. "Now I can vote and I have a chance to get orders overseas."

Barnaby and Gutierrez are currently deployed onboard Ashland as part of the Nassau Strike Group, currently en route to the Navy's 5th and 6th Fleet areas of operation to support maritime security operations (MSO) and theater security cooperation (TSC) efforts. 🇺🇸

## NASSG Enters the Navy's Sixth Fleet Area of Operations

*From the Nassau Strike Group Public Affairs Office*

USS NASSAU, At Sea – Six ships from the Nassau Strike Group (NASSG) entered the Navy's Sixth Fleet area of responsibility (AOR) as the strike group opens the first leg of its scheduled deployment Feb. 25.

Amphibious assault ship USS Nassau (LHA 4); amphibious transport dock USS Nashville (LPD 13); amphibious dock landing ship USS Ashland (LSD 48); guided-missile destroyers USS Ross (DDG 71) and USS Bulkeley (DDG 84); and guided-missile cruiser USS Philippine Sea (CG 58) entered the AOR. The seventh vessel of the strike group, USS Albany (SSN 753), is expected to deploy from its homeport in Norfolk, Va., at a later date.

While in the area, the NASSG will assist Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe (CNE) conduct the full range of maritime operations and theater security cooperation in concert with coalition, joint, interagency and other partners in order to advance security and stability in Europe and Africa. In doing so, the NASSG effectively becomes Commander, Task Force SIX TWO (CTF 62).

The NASSG will also support the 2008 CNE Operational Objectives to improve maritime safety and security in Europe and Africa; be prepared for any contingency; provide exceptional stewardship to the regional workforce and their families; advance the art and science of maritime operations; advance awareness of the harmony of partner and U.S. interests and activities; and support U.S. European Command (EUCOM), U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) and other Navy Component Commanders.

The strike group will further support the other tenets of the Navy's Maritime Strategy, which includes forward presence, deterrence, sea control, power projection, and humanitarian assistance and disaster response.

**“Our Sailors and Marines are excited and ready to conduct a full range of Maritime Operations with our coalition and joint partners,” said Capt. Robert G. Lineberry, commander, NASSG.**

“We look forward to supporting Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe, enhancing maritime security, and furthering our partnerships in Europe and Africa through participation in exercises such as Phoenix Express '08.”

The Maritime Strategy represents a new vision for the 21st century and establishes new capabilities to codify longstanding challenges while maintaining a focus on enduring missions.

Following its mission in Sixth Fleet, the strike group will move on to the Navy Fifth Fleet AOR to support Maritime Security Operations (MSO) and Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) efforts. MSO helps set the conditions for security and stability in the maritime environment, as well as complement the counterterrorism and security efforts of regional nations. These operations seek to disrupt violent extremists' use of the maritime environment as a venue for attack or to transport personnel, weapons or other material. ■



*ATLANTIC OCEAN -- Nassau Strike Group transits the Atlantic Ocean in formation Feb. 25, 2008. Nassau Strike Group deployed in support of Maritime Security Operations and Theater Security Co-operation efforts in the U.S. 5th and 6th Fleet areas of responsibility. U.S. Navy photos by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Ryan Steinhour and Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Andrew King. (RELEASED)*



## Bulkeley Sailors Cope with Deployment Separation

*By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class David Wycaver*

USS BULKELEY, At Sea – USS Bulkeley (DDG-84), part of the Nassau Strike Group (NASSG), recently began their scheduled six-month deployment of conducting Maritime Security Operations (MSO) in the 5th and 6th Fleets, consequently separating hundreds of Sailors apart from family, spouses and loved ones.

While Navy Sailors have become synonymous with defending freedom's call, with their service comes sacrifice and hardships faced in a variety of different forms. While every person deployed has a duty to their country, Sailors also have a responsibility to their spouses and loved ones to make it back home safely.

"This is my third deployment, but the first since me and my wife have been married," said Operations Specialist 2nd Class Robert Welch, Bulkeley's tactical information coordinator. "It will be the longest amount of time we've spent apart,"

Many different types of relationships exist and for Sailors there is no exception: whether it's a single or dual-military marriage, or even a traditional civilian matrimony, every relationship goes through their times of struggle and hardship. Through these accounts people build character, become stronger and appreciate the little things life has to offer.

"Being apart from your spouse is always rough, but the time apart makes you appreciate the importance of what you have," said Operations Specialist 2nd Class Dwight Holloway, Global Command and Control System (GCCS) data manager onboard USS Bulkeley.

Holloway, along with his wife Rachel, an Operations Specialist onboard USS Ross (DDG-71), are both currently deployed in the Nassau Strike Group (NASSG) and have been married for three years.

"Being a part of the same battle group has its advantages and disadvantages," Holloway explained. "It's good to be deployed at the same time because

you know both of you will return during the same timeframe, but no matter what you still miss your spouse."

Having a dual-military marriage may seem difficult while constantly being deployed, but when asked, these Sailors explained how it could actually be a positive.

"I definitely think it's an advantage having a dual-military marriage because my wife understands exactly what I go through on a daily basis, especially since she used to work onboard and knows the crew," said Welch.

"Being a part of a dual military marriage, and especially one in the same rate, is a benefit to us both because we understand the work environment and obstacles faced. The aspects of daily military life would be harder to explain to a civilian spouse because they don't experience the lifestyle," said Holloway.

Military marriages, when compared to civilian ones are unique in the aspect of what service members have to go through when called upon for duty. This type of commitment calls for strong willed people who are willing to sacrifice time about from loved ones in the name of military service.

To help reflect and appreciate what is missed, Welch explains, "I keep every e-mail sent by my wife and have the maximum amount of photos allotted in

my rack of her and my daughter. I definitely cherish the time we spent together."

Ships and commands around the fleet have set up programs to aid families during the time of separation, which offer a variety of resources.

"An Ombudsman is responsible for creating and distributing command newsletters and maintaining up to date information on the commands care line. The newsletter has a message from the CO, XO, CMC, Ombudsman and FRG President," said Stacy Hiott, USS Bulkeley command family Ombudsman. "The newsletter and care line are especially important during a deployment. It's an effective way to get information out to all the families. There is also the Family Readiness Group (FRG), which is a wonderful way to meet the other command families. By getting together with the FRG, we form friendships, learn ways to cope, and these help lessen the anxiety of the deployment."

As the Nassau Strike Group continues its deployment, Sailors carrying out the mission understand the importance of the duties at hand and continue to sacrifice daily luxuries in the name of the values our nation is built around. The love and strong bonds with family and loved ones gives NASSG sailors the strength to perform their roles and come homely safely to the ones who miss them. 📷



ATLANTIC OCEAN – A helicopter lands on the flight deck of amphibious dock landing ship, USS Ashland (LSD 48) during flight quarters, Feb. 24. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Mandy Hunsucker. (RELEASED)



## Nassau Strike Group Transits the Atlantic



*ATLANTIC OCEAN - Nassau Strike Group (NASSG) transits the Atlantic Ocean in formation Feb. 25, 2008. Nassau Strike Group deployed in support of Maritime Security Operations and Theater Security Co-operation efforts in the U.S. 5th and 6th Fleet areas of responsibility. NASSG is comprised of the amphibious assault ship USS Nassau (LHA 4); the amphibious transport dock ship USS Nashville (LPD 13); the amphibious dock landing ship USS Ashland (LSD 48); the guided-missile destroyers USS Ross (DDG 71) and USS Bulkeley (DDG 84); the fast attack submarine USS Albany (SSN 753); all homeported at Norfolk, Va.; and the guided-missile cruiser USS Philippine Sea (CG 58), homeported at Mayport, Fla. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Andrew King. (RELEASED)*



## Nassau Meritoriously Advances Four Sailors

by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Jonathan Pankau

NORFOLK – USS Nassau (LHA 4) Commanding Officer Capt. James R. Boorujy meritoriously advanced four Sailors during Captain's Call in the hangar bay Jan. 29.

Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuels) 3rd Class (SW) Jose Campos, Electronics Technician 2nd Class (SW/AW) Virginia Hilton, Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Brandon Sledge, and Ship's Serviceman 3rd Class Darius Reid each advanced under the Command Advancement Program (CAP).

The program offers an opportunity for commanding officers to recognize and advance outstanding Sailors who have passed their advancement exams, but whose scores were not high enough to advance. It allows commanding officers to take into account qualities that aren't always evident in test results, such as leadership ability and demonstrating the Navy's core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment.

While many sailors fit these requirements and stand out among their shipmates, only a few are selected. Each command is allowed to meritoriously advance a limited number of Sailors, based on manning. Sailors who are eligible for the program go through an arduous screening process.

Each Sailor who advanced on Nassau demonstrated exceptional ability for their experience level and showed through their actions that they were ready to take on more responsibility.

Campos, yeoman in the ship's Air Department, handles the quality assurance issues for the ship's aviation fuels division, V-4, and was recently selected as the "Grape of the Month." Sailors in V-4 are called "Grapes" due to the purple flight deck jerseys they wear.

Nassau V-4 Division Leading Petty Officer Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuels) 1st Class (SW) Jacob Hicks said Campos "continually seeks out information to become more knowledgeable and proficient."

Hilton began managing Nassau's internal radio communication system, called Hydra, as a 3rd class. The task usually assigned to a much more experienced Sailor. She also coordinates her division's mentorship program.

Combat Systems Department Leading Chief Petty Officer Chief Electronics Technician (SW/AW) Anthony Smith said commitment to the Navy is evident in everything she does.

"Hilton volunteered to come to this ship instead of staying on her ship in the yards because she knew we were going on deployment," Smith said. "That says a lot about her."

"Petty Officer Sledge is consistently placed in a leadership position due to his unwavering work ethic and ability to lead his fellow seaman," said 2nd Division Leading Chief Petty Officer Chief Boatswain's Mate (SW) Anthony Costa.

"There are many sailors in my department that deserve to be advanced as well, but unfortunately there are not many slots available," Costa added. "Keeping up with qualifications, maintaining outstanding personal appearance and military bearing go a long way toward being meritoriously advanced," said Costa.

Reid similarly set an example of excellence in the ship's Supply Department.

"Reid's strong, positive leadership abilities, outstanding personal appearance and military bearing told us that he could do the job and do it well," said Ship's Serviceman 1st Class Petty Officer (SW/AW) Monica Wood, the records keeper and retail supervisor for S-3 Division. "He ran the Ship's Store flawlessly from April 2007 until November of 2007 and volunteered for the Food Bank in his spare time." ■

### What are you planning to accomplish during this deployment?



"Being that this is my first deployment, I plan to learn my job; and earn both my warfare pins."

- Information Systems Technician  
Seaman Apprentice  
Nicholas Lynch,  
USS Nassau (LHA 4)



"My goals for deployment are to get my EAWS pin, continue to get in shape and receive as many qualifications as possible, so I can advance in rate."

- Sonar Technician Surface  
2nd Class Patrick Ryals,  
USS Bulkeley (DDG 84)



## Any Day in NASSG



ATLANTIC OCEAN (Feb. 20, 2008) -- Three helicopters refuels onboard the amphibious assault ship USS Nassau (LHA 4) Feb. 20. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist (SW/AW) 1st Class Rustum Rivera. (RELEASED)



NORFOLK (Feb. 20, 2008) - Sailors onboard the guided missile destroyer USS Ross (DDG 71) man the rails as they depart Naval Station Norfolk. The ship is part of the Nassau Strike Group supporting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th and 6th Fleet areas of responsibility. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Cory Rose. (RELEASED)



ATLANTIC OCEAN (Feb. 21, 2008)-- Guided missile cruiser, USS Philippine Sea (CG 58) receives fuel from USNS Leroy Grumman during a replenishment at sea, Feb. 21. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Mandy Hunsucker. (RELEASED)



ATLANTIC OCEAN (Feb. 26, 2008) -- Sailors of repair locker 3, onboard amphibious dock landing ship, USS Ashland (LSD 48), participate in a General Quarters (GQ) fire drill, Feb. 26. GQ drills take place several times a month to keep Sailors alert and ready for what they may face while at sea. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Mandy Hunsucker. (RELEASED)



ATLANTIC OCEAN (Feb. 21, 2008)-- Line handlers stand by and prepare for a fuel replenishment-at-sea, Feb. 21, onboard amphibious dock landing ship, USS Ashland (LSD). U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Mandy Hunsucker. (RELEASED)



ATLANTIC OCEAN (Feb. 29, 2008) - Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Kerron Andrews stationed aboard Guided Missile Destroyer (DDG-84) USS Bulkeley provides a helo with directional signals during a Vertical Replenishment at Sea (VERTREP). U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communications Specialist 3rd Class David Wyscaver. (RELEASED)



ATLANTIC OCEAN (Feb. 26, 2008) -- Sailors stationed aboard Guided Missile Destroyer USS Bulkeley (DDG-84) practice crowd control tactics during Anti Terrorism Force Protection (AT-FP) training. This training exercise allowed BULKELEY sailors an opportunity to view and practice essential ATFP techniques. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Petty Officer 3rd Class David Wyscaver. (RELEASED)

## Bulkeley Conducts Anti-Terrorism Force Protection Training

*By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class David Wycaver*

USS BULKELEY, At Sea – The guided-missile destroyer USS Bulkeley (DDG 84) is conducting Anti-Terrorism Force Protection (AT-FP) training during their deployment to help teach and familiarize Sailors with the necessary tactics needed to carry-out daily watch standing procedures.

"This training is important for all armed watch standers," said Master-at-Arms 1st Class Anwar Blakely, AT-FP training supervisor onboard USS Bulkeley. "We're teaching these Sailors in non-lethal weapons as well as unarmed combat training used in various situations overseas or even in homeport if deemed necessary."

"I feel force protection is just as important when we are in homeport as to when we are overseas," said Fire Controlman Chief Michael Fluent, AT-FP training supervisor onboard USS Bulkeley. "We always need to be looking for that potential violent threat or attack towards us and we prepare accordingly."

During these training sessions, Sailors receive hands-on demonstrations from AT-FP supervisors on how to properly formulate and execute baton usage, various offensive strike methods, and

defensive block techniques.

"When and if we fall under attack or become breached it's definitely good to know we have effective, instinctive training to fall back on and utilize," said Cryptologic Technician Collection Seaman James Gaines, AT-FP training participant.

In Nov. 2007, the strike group's six ships, USS Nassau (LHA 4), USS Nashville (LPD 13), USS Ashland (LSD 48), USS Bulkeley (DDG 84), USS Ross (DDG 71), and USS Philippine Sea (CG 58) underwent a two-day force protection training exercise in Norfolk, Va. All were all certified, with Nassau and Philippine Sea earning perfect scores, marking the first time a Second Fleet expeditionary strike group had all of its ships certify at once. According to Fluent, resting on those successes only leads to complacency in real-world situations

"If we don't continue to practice and sharpen these essential skills then we risk losing them and we can't afford to do that," he said.

When training puts an emphasis on mission readiness and provides vital skills in performing daily duties, Sailors

respond and want to be apart of that significance.

"I volunteered for this course because I want to learn more so I can be more prepared to handles many various types of situations," said Personnel Clerk 2nd Class Vladimir Arias, pay-clerk onboard USS Bulkeley.

As the War on Terrorism continues to be fought, USS Bulkeley is ensuring they do their part by giving their Sailors the essential tools needed to carry out important AT-FP procedures.

Bulkeley is a member of the Nassau Strike Group, currently serving in the Navy's Sixth Fleet area of operations supporting Maritime Security Operations (MSO) and Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) efforts. MSO helps set the conditions for security and stability in the maritime environment, as well as complement the counterterrorism and security efforts of regional nations. These operations seek to disrupt violent extremists' use of the maritime environment as a venue for attack or to transport personnel, weapons or other material. ■

### What are you planning to accomplish during this deployment?



"I'd like to re-qualify for my ESWS; and also, advance to Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class."

- Hospital Corpsman  
3rd Class(SW) Crystal Anderson,  
USS Ashland (LSD 48)



"I would like to get a little more fit this deployment, get my ESWS pin; and complete my English and philosophy classes that I'm taking."

- Electronics Technician 3rd class  
Angela Sonnier,  
USS Ashland (LSD 48)



"One of my goals for deployment is to earn my EAWS pin, and I plan on achieving that goal by dividing my time wisely."

- Yeoman Seaman  
Lewis Breland,  
USS Bulkeley (DDG 84)